

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 7:00pm

March 1, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Kevin Cushing, Eileen Mullen-Kennedy, Anne Davis, , Karen Rosenberg, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Le'Ann Milinder, Jean Parsons, Kim Carter, Tom Grinley, Violetta Lortie, Bebe Casey, Jean Parsons, Maureen Shields, Rebecca Mitchell, Lisa Beaudion, Representative Mary Heath, Audrey Burke, Jason Henry, Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Mike Pinard, Jill Hartmann

Guest(s):

Santina Thibedeau, Bureau of Special Education

Absent:

Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Jacqueline Kelleher, Janet Reed, Heidi Cloutier, MacKenzie Burke, Jack Curtain, Denise Maher, Donna Nangle-Curtin, Michelle Rosado, Naomi Schoefeld, Meg Trainor, Heather Worthen

Commissioner Edelblut introduced himself to SAC Members

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at 4:30pm
- Introductions
- Review of meeting norms

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of February 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Lisa Beaudion made a motion to accept the February Minutes as amended, Bebe Casey seconded the motion. All in favor no opposed 6 abstentions. Motion approved.

Public Comment

Lisa Beaudion ~ The House Bill relative to long care support and services, a hearing is being held on Tuesday, March 7th at 1:30pm, Lisa is seeking support on this bill as well as the Senate Bill relative to implementation of managed care, if you would like to support, please let Lisa know.

Parents with Equity are organizing a meeting on Saturday, March 25th, 11am-1pm, Granite State Organizing Project; Lisa will e-mail a flyer with additional information.

Nominations:

Representative Mary Heath has been reappointed to SAC; Mary received her appointment letter two weeks ago. Representative Jim Griener has also been appointed to SAC.

Legislative Update, including an update on the status of the NH Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Santina Thibedeau:

Santina provided guidance to the members of SAC in how to locate information with regards to accessing bills, locating the text of bills, bills passed in executive committee, and how your Senators voted. <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/>

Mary Heath:

- HB 201 relative to a code of ethics for certified educational personnel
- HB 557 relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools. Concerns remain about children with disabilities, how will this affect children in Charter Schools? Passed the House, legal issues remain.
- HB 620 relative to compliance with state and federal education mandates. The full implications of the bill are unknown, thought there were enough vote to have maintained, but it passed. Would like to have recommitted the bill to study, please call your local representative as we do not know the depth of the impact due to no time to study the bill.
- HB 647 relative to establishing education freedom saving accounts for children with disabilities. This bill is misleading, this is a bill that creates a private organization to handle funds, if a parent wants their child to be a part of the organization, the parent contacts the organization, the organization contacts the DOE for funding; funds will go to the parent with 5% of the funds will be applied for organization for fees. Parent can use the funds for tuition, books, etc. How do we know the child is getting service needs, no reporting, no evaluation, and no accountability. This is a voucher bill.

The Calendar will be published tomorrow; SAC members will be able to locate times/dates for sessions.

Maureen Shields on behalf of Bonnie

Distributed with the agenda is information regarding HB 620 as amended and a copy of the letter the State Board sent to the House of Representatives and the House Education Committee with regards to HB 62, relative to the compliance with state and federal education mandates.

SB 193 relative to establishing education freedom savings accounts for all students

Students who wish to apply for these funds are eligible, the NHDOE would be notified and the funds can be used for anything. Bills are popping up across the country, have not been vetted yet, testimony has been heard this is misleading bill. Mary would like to see these two bills kept in the general court until we can ask the Supreme Court of their variability.

**Updates from the Bureau of Special Education
Santina Thibedeau**

The Bureau of Special Education has been awarded a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) for the past twenty-five years. The Bureau is currently applying for the new SPDG with a focus on the pyramid model for preschools, infrastructures of PBIS for preschoolers to enter school with social and emotional. Stakeholders meeting have been held.

Updates from the Bureau of Special Education (cont'd)

Santina Thibedeau

The Administrative Rules have passed the Joint Legislative Committee of Administrative Rules (JLCAR) and the next step is for State Board for approval. Hopefully the State Board will adopt, with an effective date of immediate approval or possibly to become effective July 1st.

Graduation Rates and Drop-Out Rates for Students with Disabilities, State Performance Plan (SPP), the SPP was submitted to the USDOE, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on February 2, 2017.

Indicator 1

Results Indicator: Percent of youth with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular diploma

- Administration of Minimum Standards in Public Schools, Ed 300
- SPP Historical Data
- Comparison of NH and Other New England States Graduation Rates
- Exiting Special Education and School, Ages 14 through 21

Indicator 2

Results Indicator: Percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school

- SPP Historical Data
- Comparison of NH and Other New England States Drop-out Rates
- Exiting Special Education and School, Ages 14 through 21

SPP Graduation and Drop-out Rate

Exiting Special Education and School, Ages 14 through 21

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) calculates the percentage. NH's 7.8 percent drop-out rate; the Bureau completes a federal table, submits the data of which OSEP calculates the percentage.

SAC members have requested information on Indicators 4 and 5

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

Lisa Hinson-Hatz

A survey to be more proactive with VR and Special Education with the rollout of WOIA, Bill East, of NASDSE, has put together a brief survey to talk about challenges in the State, Lisa and Santina completed the survey. There are currently great things happening in New Hampshire. Pre-employment transition services align with special education, preparing for reauthorize of IDEA.

Receiving data and over 400 students have been served, which is a pretty good number for the first semester, many of these students may become VR clients. Lisa has a VR conference on Wednesday, April 5th; could someone attend the SAC meeting on her behalf?

Encountering challenges with data collection, due to laws about sharing personal information, how do we accomplish this? Information needed includes: date of birth, unique identified, disability, ethnicity, services received, cost of services by student and start and end dates. This data is needed to share with the federal partners on data collection.

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Lisa Hinson-Hatz

Services intended to help all students with disabilities and we want to open the doors for all students, however, we have encountered barriers with these 7 elements. If data isn't received, the student cannot receive the services. Beginning July 1st and moving forward the data collection is needed.

Some of the programs the 400 students were involved in:

- Pre-employment transition services, not employment, work based learning experience / exploration and discovery
- Impact program
PIC in class training and self-advocacy skills
- Granite State Independent Living
Resume writing, proper communication with co-workers, to think about moving forward for employment
- 14 week course – Impact Program
Students come together to learn new things about themselves, make new friendships. The students also have the opportunity to participate in individual workshops different from the Impact Program.

SAC members can attend a session if they are interested; Lisa will look at the calendar for dates of upcoming sessions.

Working with Asperger Syndrome Training & Employment Partnership (ASTEP) out of New York; the organization has helped many companies in the hiring of individuals with autism. The main focus is educating businesses to bring autism spectrum into the business. ASTEPs small events focus on employers hiring and engaging students during their senior year, work with the students on their resume and preparing for work.

Old Business, New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

Maureen Tracy

The Laconia School District has been asked to go to the Blue Ribbon School in Reading Massachusetts to present on PBIS.

Maureen Shields

Partnering for Strengthen Conference 2017, March 11, 2017, Grappone Center, Concord, there is still time to register. Two conferences in one, Adult Conference and Youth Conference; the Partnering for Strengthen Conference is an annual event focusing on educating, collaborating and enriching families, professionals and youth.

6:21pm Jason Henry made a motion to adjourn, List Hatz seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 2017